

# tackling the road

Away game gives team chance to show comeback skills

With the scoreboard reading 23-0 at the end of the first quarter, Sulphur Springs led the Tigers. The boys began to lose a little faith in themselves, until the end of the second quarter.

"We were running the ball up and down the field, and I was able to drive the ball in on a quarterback sneak and score with the help of my teammates," sophomore quarterback Cade Pearson said. "That touchdown gave us hope for the rest of the game."

With just seven points on the board, the Tigers knew they had to make changes mentally as they headed into the locker room at halftime.

"During halftime, I could tell that none of us planned on losing the game," junior Jacorien Walker said. "KJ [Reid, 12] was talking to us as a

team about getting serious for our first district game. We already felt that we had lost half of our fans, so we knew it was time to get it together."

Determined and ready to play, the team stepped onto the field with the resolve to win the game.

"Everyone's mind-set going into the second half was to come out and dominate and play consistently," senior Will Brown said. "Offense did very well, and the defense stepped it up. The energy after the second touchdown was intense. After we continued to score, the whole team got fired up. It was a good game for us, we won 42-29. That game really got us pumped up for the rest of the season. We never lost an away game up until the playoffs."



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## moments matter

Players take pride in traditions that have lasted throughout years



### coming out strong

"In the tiger before a game, we always get hyped and come out on to the field with high intensity, starting the game off on the right foot. If we don't, we'll look sluggish and have a first bad half. It's important that we have good energy."

-William Brown, 12



### have a little faith

"The prayer after the game always helps bring the team together, especially after a loss. Once Coach Norton tells us what we need to improve on, the prayer motivates us to believe we can play better."

-Trevor Danley, 11



### hail texas

"It's cool singing the school song after every game. It's tough after losses because we're not in the best mood, but after a win I love that the band, cheerleaders, Highsteppers and all of football come together and sing it."

-Matt Davis, 11

"Winning is a good feeling in any sport. So once all your hard work and dedication pay off, it only motivates you more."  
- Jarion Anderson, 12



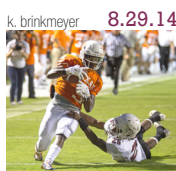
## dedication over disappointment

With a rough start to the season, the loss against Arkansas High affected senior Jarion Anderson more than a usual defeat. "We lost the game because we came out too confident," Jarion said. "That loss taught us to never underestimate a team, even if you have beaten them for years. Also, we need to take practices more seriously." In order to be in the right mind-set after a loss for future games, Jarion told himself, "You just have to shake it off and move forward or else you won't be any better than your last game." Football is something Jarion always puts 100 percent into. "It's something I love," Jarion said. "I always take it seriously, even if it's just a small game in the backyard."



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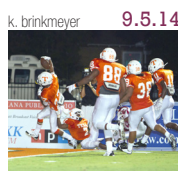
### WHITEHOUSE



"It was our first game of the season, so the whole team was excited, including myself. I feel like I played a good first two quarters until I got hurt and tore my MCL, but there were things we could have all done better."

Dale Williamson, 12

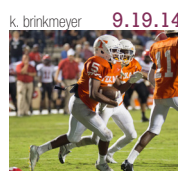
### ARKANSAS



"We gave our all but came up short in the end because we didn't pursue the ball and make the last play that counted. I think that loss helped us as a team with chemistry and pushed us to work harder for future games."

Dee Jones, 11

### KILGORE



"We fought really hard; There were some things we could have done better. I think we had a good performance because we were able to take the win. I'm thankful for my teammates that helped me score a touchdown."

Jacorien Walker, 11

### SULPHUR SPRINGS



"The first half of the game, the ball was thrown to me multiple times, and I was able to make a few good catches, but overall it wasn't a good half for the team. The second half we came out with a lot of intensity and blew them out."

Jaylen Rhone, 11

### HALLSVILLE



"We were playing so good as a team in the beginning that once we were ahead of them, we started to slack off. But realizing the game wasn't over yet, we refocused ourselves. I was happy with how myself and my team played."

Chaz Davis, 11

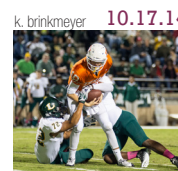
### PINE TREE



"We went in thinking it was going to be an easy game, but they came out harder than expected, and so the game was tougher than we thought it would be. I was able to make two touchdowns though."

Javon Thomas, 12

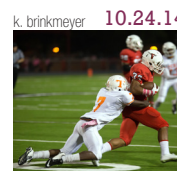
### LONGVIEW



"Overall, I feel like the team executed all plays good. The offensive line did really well on holding blocks for me. I had the most passing yards against them in the district, but we weren't able to get the win."

Cade Pearson, 10

### MARSHALL



"There was some good and bad things we did. I feel like it was a good game for us though. There was a moment during the game, when the running back caught the ball, and I was able to make a good tackle on him."

Marquan Tucker, 12

### GREENVILLE



"I feel like me and my team played great. We pounded the ball hard and did what we had to do to get the job done. I also feel like a lot of my teammates had a very good game and played their positions very well."

Cornelius Zachery, 12

### MT. PLEASANT



"It was a good game for the team and myself I think, but there's always things we could do better. I was really upset that I didn't score the first time I got the ball, but now I'm confident, and ready for playoffs."

J'kardi Witcher, 10